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(b) whether any instruction has been issued that permission must be obtained to attend such conferences?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) The Director of Medical Services called for a list of Medical officers who attended the Conference without obtaining the permission of the Government.

(b) Under Government Servants' Conduct Rules, permission of the Government is necessary for attending such Conferences.

Diarrhoea

* a 263 Q.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state— 3-10 p.m.

(a) whether the taluks of Polur, Chengam, Tiruvannamalai and Wandiwash in North Arcot district were affected with a peculiar disease in the months of January and February, 1961; and

(b) if so, what it was and the relief and preventive measures taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Diarrhoea with or without vomiting. The public health and medical staff posted to the area are doing inoculation, disinfection, chlorination of water sources and giving treatment to patients.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : This disease is prevalent in four or five taluks for the past four or five months. May I know whether the doctors were of the opinion that it was a contagious disease?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : This disease broke out as a result of the heavy rains in October 1960 and it occurred in some taluks in the North Arcot District and in some taluks of the South Arcot District. The cause for the disease has not been exactly fixed. Yet a similar outbreak occurred in 1940 with all the symptoms that are occurring now. It is inferred that it is due to some form of bacillary dysentery, due to the possibility of infection by flexner group. It is one of the types. This is only a surmise drawn from what occurred in the year 1940. We have not yet exactly fixed the reason for it.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, is it a fact that it is due to the consumption of groundnut cakes, as stated in the papers? May I know how many died of this disease?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Whether the consumption of groundnut cakes is the cause, is all the layman's surmise. Because, even in areas where people have not consumed

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a Question postponed from the list of questions for 24th August 1961.

groundnut cakes, it has occurred. So, we cannot say that it is due to that entirely. Now, as regards the dead, these are the figures :—

North Arcot—

Wandiwash—311.

Chengam—6.

Polur—14.

Arni—32.

Tiruvannamalai—167.

Cheyyar—1.

South Arcot—

Vriddachalam—134.

Kallakurichi—362.

Tirukkoilur—48.

Villupuram—20.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : May I request the Hon. Minister to ask his medical officers to find out why this bacillary dysentery has not been controlled, and why so many people died in spite of our having . . .

Mr. CHAIRMAN : This is not a supplementary question.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : There is a specific therapy for this. Why was this specific Flexner therapy not applied in these cases, which would have prevented the deaths?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is only after going deeply into the causes, we have finally come to a sort of surmise that it may be Flexner group. In the beginning it was considered whether it could be due to the consumption of groundnut cakes. But people were taking *murukku* and *vadai* and all that and we were unable to say what it was due to.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : May I request the Hon. Minister to find out from his medical officers whether they found any anti-toxins in the blood of these people who suffered from this diarrhoea, if it was deemed to come under the Flexner Group?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU : A team was sent out for investigation to the Pasteur Institute. When the final report comes, I will be able to give the answer.

Confidential reports

* 264 *Q.*—Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any regulations regarding confidential reports of Government servants and, if so, what they are; and